

INFORMATION LETTER

Not for
Publication

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

For Members
Only

No. 1396

Washington, D. C.

July 19, 1952

N.C.A. States that Steel Strike Threatens Packs of Perishables

The N.C.A. this week issued a press release stating that unless production of steel and tin plate is resumed immediately, there will not be enough cans to package all of this year's crops of perishable fruits and vegetables. If cans are not available, it was pointed out, the perishables that may be lost would be lost forever to the farmers who grew them and to the consuming public.

The press release explained that the steel strike has denied the industry supplies of tin plate and cans adequate to pack all the crops of tomatoes, peaches and other perishable foods this year.

The statement was made after careful evaluation of available supplies and can manufacturing facilities, and in response to repeated inquiries from the press about how the canning industry is being affected by the strike.

Following is the text of the N.C.A. press release:

Washington, D. C. (July 18)—Unless the production of steel and tin plate is resumed by July 21, the canning industry will be unable this year for the first time in history to process farmers' crops of tomatoes, peaches and other perishable foods, the National Canners Association stated today.

To can the nation's food supply requires the production of approximately 20 billion cans. Since tin cans are roughly 99 percent steel, nearly 2.5 million tons of steel are needed to package the fruit and vegetable crops. Of the vegetables, corn and tomatoes, and of the fruits, peaches are in greatest jeopardy at this time. About 85 percent of the nation's sweet corn crop, more than 80 percent of the tomato crop, and practically all of the cling peach crop goes into cans.

These perishable crops must be handled within a period of from five to seven weeks following about the first of August. During the short period of harvest it is possible to manufacture and deliver only about half the quantity of cans needed. Thus a substantial proportion of the cans required for preserving these crops must be manufactured in advance of the canning season. The steel strike has denied the industry the adequate supplies of tin plate to pack these perish-

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Defense Act Appropriations

A total of \$112,798,000 was appropriated by Congress to support the defense functions of civilian agencies of the government for the fiscal year which began July 1.

Of the total, \$60,000,000 was approved for the Economic Stabilization Agency, including the Office of Price Stabilization. ESA appropriations for fiscal 1952 were \$98,053,375, and the President had requested \$103,250,000 for this year.

The Commerce Department, including the National Production Author-

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Tomato Sanitation Bulletin

A special circular containing "Suggestions for Improving Sanitary Conditions in the Harvesting, Transportation and Processing of Tomatoes" has been prepared by a special N.C.A. Committee and has been mailed to all tomato canners.

In 1951 the Food and Drug Administration made seizures of both whole tomatoes and tomato products because of contamination. M. V. Eisenberg of the FDA, in his talk at the 1952 Canners Convention, emphasized the need for canners to utilize raw stock much freer of contamination by disease or insects than in the past.

A special N.C.A. Committee on Tomato Products Sanitation was appointed by the chairmen of the N.C.A.'s Scientific Research and Raw Products Committees to prepare a special circular outlining measures by which canners may avoid contamination of tomatoes and tomato products both in the field and factory.

This circular, together with a copy of Mr. Eisenberg's talk and a copy of

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OPS Formally Decontrols Canned Foods 'Clearly' Covered by Exemption

In conformance with the Defense Production Act Amendments of 1952, the Office of Price Stabilization on July 14 formally removed ceiling prices from a number of canned fruit and vegetable products.

The processed foods listed in the decontrol order, OPS said, are "clearly and unequivocally" covered by the so-called Harrison amendment exempting fresh and processed fruits and vegetables from price control.

The decontrol action therefore applies to sales of the enumerated items at all levels of processing and distribution, including sales in retail food stores, retroactive to July 1.

OPS said, however, that the exact limits of the amendment "are not yet clearly defined and questions have arisen as to the point at which Con-

gress intended to draw the line of decontrol." The agency therefore is continuing its study of the amendment to determine its scope.

Copies of the decontrol order, Amendment 2 to Revision 1 to GOR 7, were mailed by N.C.A. to all members.

OPS pointed out in the order that records kept by canners during the

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DEATH

Dr. E. C. Auchter

Dr. E. C. Auchter, 62, former research expert with the U. S. Department of Agriculture who gained new prominence in recent years for his work on pineapple in Hawaii, died at his home in Honolulu July 8 after a long illness.

He had retired May 31 as Director and President of the Pineapple Research Institute of Hawaii.

Dr. Auchter became principal horticulturist of the USDA's Bureau of Plant Industry in 1928 and became Chief of the Bureau in 1935. As Administrator of the Agricultural Research Administration, 1942-45, he was head of all agricultural research work for the government.

Tomato Sanitation Bulletin

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an extension circular prepared by Rutgers University, was mailed to tomato canners this week. Additional copies are available upon request to the N.C.A. either in Washington or in Berkeley.

Committee on Tomato Products Sanitation

Following is the membership of the special Committee on Tomato Products Sanitation:

- J. J. Wilson, Chairman, H. J. Heinz Company, Pittsburgh, Pa.
- W. E. Anderson, Hanover Canning Co., Hanover, Pa.
- Joseph F. Barker, The Utah Canning Co., Ogden, Utah
- G. W. Beach, Libby, McNeill & Libby, Blue Island, Ill.
- B. W. Clarke, The Croase & Blackwell Co., Baltimore, Md.
- L. A. Koritz, California Packing Corp., Rochelle, Ill.
- E. L. Mitchell, Richmond-Chase Co., San Jose, Calif.
- A. C. Moll, Stokely-Van Camp, Inc., Indianapolis, Ind.
- Leo Nocenti, P. J. Ritter Co., Bridge-ton, N. J.
- Lionel W. Richards, Bereut-Richards Packing Co., Sacramento, Calif.
- L. P. Rutledge, Stokely-Van Camp, Inc., Indianapolis, Ind.
- C. A. Stevenson, Curtice Brothers Co., Rochester, N. Y.
- D. L. Truax, California Packing Corp., San Francisco, Calif.
- J. O. Young, Libby, McNeill & Libby, Blue Island, Ill.
- S. G. Younkin, Campbell Soup Co., Camden, N. J.

Forthcoming Meetings

- July 25—Northwest Canners Association, Annual Summer Meeting, Portland, Ore.
- July 30-August 8—New York State Canners and Freezers Association, Inc., 15th Annual Mold Count School, Geneva Experiment Station, Geneva
- September 18-20—United States Wholesale Grocers Association, Fall Meeting, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.
- October 3-7—American Meat Institute, 47th Annual Meeting, Palmer House, Chicago
- October 16-17—National Pickle Packers Association, Annual Meeting, Blackstone Hotel, Chicago
- October 17—Ozark Canners Association, Fall Meeting, Colonial Hotel, Springfield, Mo.
- October 23-25—Florida Canners Association, Annual Meeting, Casa Blanca Hotel, Miami Beach
- October 26-30—National Association of Food Chains, Annual Meeting, Miami Beach
- November 3-4—Iowa-Nebraska Canners Association, Annual Convention, Hotel Fort Des Moines, Des Moines
- November 6—Illinois Canners Association, Fall Meeting, Bismarck Hotel, Chicago
- November 10-11—Wisconsin Canners Association, 48th Annual Convention, Schroeder Hotel, Milwaukee
- November 20-21—Indiana Canners Association, Annual Convention, French Lick Springs Hotel, French Lick Springs
- November 24-25—Pennsylvania Canners Association, 38th Annual Convention, Penn-Harris Hotel, Harrisburg
- December 1-2—Michigan Canners Association, Fall Meeting, Pantlind Hotel, Grand Rapids
- December 2-3—Ohio Canners Association, Annual Convention, The Neil House, Columbus
- December 4-5—New York State Canners and Freezers Association, Inc., 67th Annual Convention, Hotel Statler, Buffalo
- December 4-5—Tri-State Packers Association, 49th Annual Convention, Haddon Hall, Atlantic City, N. J.
- December 9—Minnesota Canners Association, Annual Meeting, Hotel Radisson, Minneapolis
- January 19-20—Northwest Canners Association, Annual Convention, Olympic Hotel, Seattle, Wash.
- January 22-23—Canners League of California, Annual Fruit and Vegetable Sample Cutting, Hotel Fairmont, San Francisco
- February 4-5—Minnesota Canners Association, Sixth Annual Canners' and Fieldmen's Short Course, Curtis Hotel, Minneapolis
- February 16-18—Canadian Food Processors Association, Annual Convention, Victoria, B. C.
- February 19-20—National Pickle Packers Association, Winter Meeting, Sheraton Hotel, Chicago
- February 21-23—Annual Conventions of National Canners Association, National Food Brokers Association, and Canning Machinery & Supplies Association, Chicago
- March 23-24—Canners League of California, 49th Annual Directors Conference, Santa Barbara Biltmore, Santa Barbara
- April 19-22—United States Wholesale Grocers Association, Convention and Exposition, New Orleans

STANDARDS

Grades for Canned Plums

The Production and Marketing Administration, USDA, on July 17 announced the revision of U. S. standards for canned plums that have been in effect since August, 1946.

PUBLICITY

McCall's Magazine

"Soup Saves the Day!" by Margrit Lutz, assistant food editor, features canned soups in the July issue of *McCall's* magazine.

The author begins: "Any way you look at it, canned soup saves the day, day after day. And just think of the many ways it can be used. Plain, straight from the can; combined up with other soups to give you a new taste sensation; as sauces; and finally, as an important flavor ingredient in all sorts of main dishes. Lifesaver indeed, madam. Here are some of *McCall's* wonderful ways with canned soups. . . ."

Eighteen suggestions are given for using canned soups, in which are included 18 soups and seven other canned foods.

American Home Magazine

Six tempting dishes, made with canned luncheon meat, are pictured in color on a page accompanying the "American Home Quickies" article in July. This is one of the many canned foods that have been featured in the popular monthly articles in the *American Home* magazine.

A total of 10 recipes are given in the two-page feature article entitled "Take a Can of Luncheon Meat." Five are printed singly to fit homemaker's recipe file cards, and range from a recipe for "TV Fingers" to salad and skillet meals. Five more recipe suggestions for using canned luncheon meat in easy and good family meals are arranged to fit another recipe file card. Other canned foods used are: onions, pineapple, ripe olives, pineapple juice, baked beans, and cream of mushroom soup.

Home Economics Division Advertisements

Enclosed with this issue of the INFORMATION LETTER are copies of two spring advertisements of the N.C.A. Home Economics Division. They were the last advertisements for the school year and were planned to interest teachers and school lunch managers who use the summer to prepare for the next year.

The advertisement "Canned Fruits and Vegetables" was one of the series devoted to various food groups. Response to the series has been excellent.

TRAFFIC

Heavy Carloading

The heavy carloading order, Service Order 878, was vacated and set aside by the Interstate Commerce Commission, effective July 15.

The ICC requests that canners continue to report average monthly loadings.

SUPPLIES

1950-51 Fertilizer Consumption

More fertilizer was used on American farms, gardens, and lawns in 1950-51 than in any previous year on record, according to a survey recently completed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Consumption in 1950-51 of 20,988,740 tons exceeded that of the preceding year by 14 percent and was almost 3 times as great as annual consumption before World War II. Average for 1935-39 was about 7 1/2 million tons.

The survey, by the Bureau of Plant Industry Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, shows the South Atlantic States, traditionally the largest consumers of fertilizer, used more than 6 million tons in 1950-51, with North Carolina accounting for nearly 2 million tons. Five other states—Georgia, Florida, Illinois, Alabama, and California—used more than a million tons each. Compared with 1949-50, decreases in fertilizer consumption of more than 5 percent were noted in Connecticut, Idaho, Minnesota, and New Hampshire, and of more than 20 percent in Maine and North Dakota.

Mixed fertilizers comprised two-thirds of the total in 1950-51. About 90 percent of these were N-P-K mixtures. Of the 15 most popular grades, the 3-12-12 had the widest distribution (13.5 percent of all mixed fertilizers).

The trend toward higher analysis fertilizers is reflected in an increase of 16 percent in the total tonnage of nutrients over 1949-50. Average nutrient content of commercial mixtures was 24.19 percent as compared with 23.24 percent in 1949-50.

Results of the survey are given in the report, "Commercial Fertilizer Consumption in the U. S. for 1950-51." A copy may be obtained from the USDA Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md.

Tin Plate Supply Situation

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able fruits and vegetables. Should the strike end today, a speed-up in can production might hold the loss of these perishable crops to a minimum. It is obvious, however, that for each successive day that the strike continues, the daily loss will become increasingly larger.

The cans now available, together with those that may be made from tin plate not tied up by the strike, will enable canners to preserve approximately half of the peach and tomato crops, but proportionately less of the other fruits and vegetables which will be harvested later.

If cans are not available for packaging these fruits and vegetables, there will be no other way of delivering these foods to the public for consumption. The foods which may be lost would be lost forever to the farmer who grew them and to the consuming public who depends upon them for the winter's food supply.

Portions of the N.C.A. release are known to have been carried on the wires of the Associated Press and the United Press.

CONGRESS

Agriculture Appropriations

Appropriations of \$728,611,970 were voted by Congress for the U. S. Department of Agriculture for the fiscal year 1953. This is almost \$65 millions below appropriations for 1952 and is \$20 millions below the sum requested by the President in budget estimates.

In voting \$14,160,000 for the Bureau of Animal Industry for meat inspection, the Congress directed that all regular inspection work should be done from appropriated funds.

Appropriations for selected USDA activities in 1953 are:

Research and Marketing Act—\$5,250,000, as compared with \$5,500,000 in 1952.

Bureau of Agricultural Economics—\$5,428,500, as compared with \$5,403,304 in 1952.

Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, for insect controls—\$13,169,000, as compared with \$12,406,000 in 1952. Conferees insisted that no reduction be made in the staff of inspectors engaged in quarantine work on oriental fruit fly and other similar programs.

Soil Conservation Service—\$60,445,500, as compared with \$59,324,584 in 1952.

Production and Marketing Administration—\$421,586,633, as compared with \$451,387,491 in 1952. Of the total, \$83,367,491 was made available for the National School Lunch Program, the same amount as last year.

STATISTICS

Meat Canned in Fiscal 1952

The quantity of meat canned and meat products processed under federal inspection during the fiscal year July 1, 1951-June 28, 1952, has been reported by the Bureau of Animal Industry, USDA. However, this report represents only the supply of meat products canned during the 12-month period and remaining for civilian consumption. Total production, including quantities for defense agencies, was 1,812,966 thousand pounds.

Canned Meat and Meat Products Processed under Federal Inspection

July 1, 1951-June 28, 1952

	3 Lbs. & over	Under 3 Lbs.	Total
(in thousands of pounds)			
Luncheon meat...	210,208	126,110	336,319
Canned hams.....	179,577	7,585	187,162
Corned beef hash...	3,398	61,947	65,345
Chili con carne....	8,849	90,200	99,049
Vienna sausage....	1,245	40,546	41,790
Frankfurters and weiners in brine...	363	10,830	11,202
Deviled ham.....	108	7,734	7,902
Other potted and doviled meat products.....	61	37,040	37,104
Tamales.....	1,456	27,113	28,569
Sliced, dried beef..	458	4,908	5,367
Liver products....	1	2,163	2,164
Meat stew.....	655	66,618	67,273
Spaghetti meat products.....	1,487	53,276	54,764
Tongue (not pickled).....	625	3,023	3,648
Vinegar pickled products.....	13,329	22,121	35,450
Bulk sausage.....	34	11,433	11,467
Hamburger.....	848	18,960	19,808
Soups.....	17,424	453,980	471,404
Sausage in oil....	2,531	4,900	7,437
Tripe.....	82	7,540	7,628
Brains.....	30	4,117	4,147
Bacon.....	356	2,714	3,070
All other products 20% or more meat.....	4,386	64,760	69,147
All other products less than 20% meat (except soup).....	1,625	119,960	121,585
Total all products.	449,198	1,249,499	1,698,701

Columns do not add to totals shown in all cases since rounded figures are used. Amounts packed for defense are not included in these items. Total production, including quantities for defense agencies, was 1,812,966 thousand pounds.

Popularity of Corn Hybrids

Hybrid seed corn, having made a virtual sweep of the "Corn Belt," is rapidly extending its popularity in most other parts of the country, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

A total of nearly 70.4 million acres planted with hybrid seed corn is estimated for 1952. This is about 84 percent of total corn acreage.

BAE reports that the development has been rapid, from one acre in a thousand in 1933, to one-half the total in 1943, and three-fourths in 1948, but is now tapering off as the saturation point is reached in important corn producing states.

OPS Decontrols Canned Foods

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period of price control must be retained for the period of time specified in the regulations which formerly governed them.

The canned foods exempted by the order are:

(a) The following canned vegetable products covered by CPR 42:

- (1) Canned asparagus.
- (b) The following canned vegetable products covered by CPR 55:
 - (1) Canned beans, lima.
 - (2) Canned beans, snap (green and wax).
 - (3) Canned beets.
 - (4) Canned carrots.
 - (5) Canned corn, sweet.
 - (6) Canned fresh field peas and fresh shelled beans (all varieties).
 - (7) Canned mixtures of vegetables.
 - (8) Canned mushrooms.
 - (9) Canned okra.
 - (10) Canned onions.
 - (11) Canned peas, fresh green.
 - (12) Canned peppers.
 - (13) Canned pimientos.
 - (14) Canned potatoes, white.
 - (15) Canned potatoes, sweet.
 - (16) Canned pumpkin.
 - (17) Canned spinach.
 - (18) Canned squash.
 - (19) Canned succotash.
 - (20) Canned tomatoes.
 - (21) Canned turnip greens.
 - (22) Canned vegetable juices and mixtures thereof.

(c) The following canned fruits and berries (including mixtures of fruits) covered by CPR 56:

- (1) Canned apples.
- (2) Canned applesauce.
- (3) Canned apricots.
- (4) Canned berries (all varieties).
- (5) Canned cherries, sweet.
- (6) Canned cherries, sour.
- (7) Canned cranberries.
- (8) Canned figs.
- (9) Canned fruit cocktail.

(10) Canned fruit for salad (including canned fruit mixtures).

(11) Canned fruit and berry juices and mixtures thereof.

(12) Canned peaches (all varieties).

(13) Canned pears (all varieties).

(14) Canned plums.

(15) Canned prunes (fresh).

(f) The following fruits, berries, and vegetables covered by the GCPR or supplementary regulations thereto:

(1) All of the products listed under paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section for which the processor has previously elected, under section 1 (a) of CPRs 55 and 56, to remain under the General Ceiling Price Regulation.

(2) All canned and frozen citrus fruits, juices and concentrates (including mixtures thereof) and all other frozen fruit and berry concentrates.

(3) All dried fruits (including mixtures thereof).

(4) Canned pineapple and pineapple juice.

(5) The following canned baby or junior foods:

- (i) Applesauce.
- (ii) Apricot-applesauce.
- (iii) Beets.
- (iv) Carrots.
- (v) Green beans.
- (vi) Peas.
- (vii) Peaches.
- (viii) Pears.
- (ix) Pears and pineapple.
- (x) Prunes.
- (xi) Spinach.
- (xii) Squash.
- (xiii) Sweet potatoes.

(g) The following fruits, berries and vegetables covered by CPR 22:

(1) Frozen French fried, diced or whipped white potatoes.

(2) Peeled, whole or sliced chemically treated white potatoes.

(3) Shoestring and julienne potatoes and potato chips.

(4) Sauerkraut and sauerkraut juice.

(5) Cherries in brine.

(h) The following fruits, berries and vegetables covered by CPR 31:

(1) Pineapple.

(2) Cherries in brine.

Defense Act Appropriations

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ity, was allotted \$28,750,000, as compared with \$39,737,500 last year and \$35,000,000 requested in the President's budget.

The appropriations also include \$2,000,000 for the defense activities of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, as compared with \$1,500,000 last year, and \$3,100,000 for the Department of Interior, including the Defense Fisheries Administration, compared with \$5,000,000 last year.

Among other appropriations for defense activities were \$1,250,000 for the Office of Defense Mobilization, compared with \$1,711,250 in 1952, and \$2,875,000 for the Defense Production Administration, compared with \$2,800,000 last year.

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